

Third Meeting of the Third  
**Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee**  
**To the Secretary of Commerce**

*June 23, 2015*  
*U.S. Department of Commerce*  
*Herbert H. Hoover Building – Suite 48019*

**MEETING MINUTES**

I. Welcome, introductions, and updates

- Read-Outs from interim Sub-Committee meetings:
  - Smart Communities (Mita Burke): held 2 conference calls, and one face-to-face meeting that included interagency. Current work plan includes inventory of smart cities and projects; working with interagency to contribute to smart city definitional exercises; make progress towards some type of industry-led commercial engagement with international smart city at proper stage of development.
  - Resiliency & Infrastructure (Gary Rackliffe): met with representatives from Power Africa to discuss technology cluster visits from African delegations, specifically to Research Triangle area; also analyzing role of micro grids and how industry groups can come together to meet needs.
  - Smart Transportation (Cindy Thyfault): will be developing a policy paper in response to the Top Markets Report that provides complimentary recommendations to the Department of Commerce that are focused on Renewable Fuels markets; expressed interest in working with Commerce and State to support exporter app.
  - Global Energy Delivery (Fred Sisson for Mukesh Dulani): Held conference call regarding Power Africa and potential for industry participation in Reverse Trade Missions; determined that they need to combine efforts with R&I Sub-Committee.
- Highlighted upcoming events:
  - Webinar on COP 21 Industry Events – June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Arctic Energy Summit – September 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>
  - European Utility Week – November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Hannover Fair, United States will be *Partner Country* for 2016 – April 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>

II. The Power Africa Initiative: Briefing and Discussion on REEEAC Involvement

- Chris Troy (USAID): Status update of Power Africa in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, including an expansion in the scope of work and U.S. industry partners – from investment and development, adding EPCs, engineering firms, and technology suppliers.

Highlighted the need to address grid issues and leverage US expertise in micro grids and mini grids.

- Christian Reed (U.S. Department of Commerce): the International Trade Administration has been staffing-up on the ground in Africa to support the initiative. A key new role is the transaction facilitator in Pretoria, who is engaged mainly on government procurement opportunities and is working to connect US companies at earlier stages of procurement development.
- David Ballard (U.S. Department of Commerce, former Foreign Service Officer in Africa): discussed issues on the ground preventing expansion of energy access in Africa. Highlighted strong inter agency coordination on Power Africa.
- Discussion:
  - Role of transaction liaisons and challenge of long-term nature to develop power deals.
  - Committee stressed need to advocate for US quality and lasting products.
  - Need to develop energy sector business models that work for Africa, much like telecom did.
  - Opportunity for industry to provide expertise, as was done through Power Africa Guide to PPAs. PPA Work: <http://cldp.doc.gov/programs/cldp-in-action/details/1378>
  - Industry is challenged to capitalize on AGOA, which seems to support African exports better.
- Takeaways and Potential Next Steps:
  - Potential activities for the Committee that are relevant to Power Africa:
    1. Develop a product similar to the PPA Guide. Analysis and recommendations on procurement processes is one example.
    2. Submit recommendations to the Secretary on AGOA.
    3. Contribute expertise on micro grids.
    4. Support Reverse Trade Missions as hosts/sponsors, workshop leaders, and participants in business seminars like those run by USTDA.
    5. Help organize and participate in regular briefings from inter agency on opportunities. The content of these could be driven by work of Transaction Facilitator in Pretoria. These could be webinars.

### III. Smart Cities Discussion with NIST's Sokwoo Rhee:

- Overview of NIST role in USG and standards in particular.
- Details on NIST's interest in Internet of Things (IoT), where there are either too many standards, or no standards – NIST in position to catalyze technology development and interoperability.
- Background on Smart America Challenge:
  - Bringing together technology partners to take on unique problems, for example, automatically slowing cars down to prevent a pile-up.
  - Ended up with 24 teams with 100 organizations participating.

- Global Cities Challenge:
  - Building off of Smart America, the project brings together smart cities to create common solutions, rather than one-offs and proprietary solutions.
- Discussion:
  - Highlighted smart cities challenges in Europe, where solutions were not sustainable.
  - Showcased Lync NYC where government was able to play a unique role and facilitate the development of networked public infrastructure.
  - Challenge to industry to take the lead: PRIVATE public Partnerships.
- Takeaways and Potential Next Steps:
  - The call for participants in the Challenge is always open – teams need to have municipal governments involved and the more diverse set of stakeholder the better.
  - The next Challenge Meeting will be in September at NIST in Gaithersburg.
  - Info on Global Cities Challenge:
    - <http://www.nist.gov/cps/sagcprogramdetails.cfm>
    - <https://www.us-ignite.org/globalcityteams/>

IV. Working Lunch: Discussion on India's Renewable Energy Market with U.S. Department of Commerce, Department of State, and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

- Senior Advisors and Climate Scientists from the Special Envoy on Climate Change: Andrew Light, David Reidmiller, and Kim Carnahan.
- International Trade Administration Global Markets India Specialists: Atman Trivedi, *Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary*, and David Nufrio, *India Desk Officer*
- Discussion of Commercial relations in area of clean energy and energy efficiency:
  - The Department of Commerce sees India as a priority trading partner and is ramping up commercial engagement. Smart Cities is one of the first focus areas.
  - Industry comment that India is a very difficult place to do business and – for the solar sector in particular – unless a company plans to establish a factory in India, there seems to be little opportunity for U.S. technology providers. There is a severe disconnect between India's renewable energy ambitions and U.S. expectations of related export growth in the sector.
- US-India collaboration to address climate change:
  - The State Department reports that addressing climate change is a priority for the Modi government, but agrees with industry that the market for international supplies and development of resources does not match the goals. Additionally, India is not always able to advance the necessary regulations to address climate change at a proper pace – for example, the phase out of HFCs has been slow.
  - The reality is that India will have to drive deployment of technologies as fast as possible – that means lower-cost technologies. The priority – both humanitarian and political – is to deliver power. There will be

opportunities to help India leapfrog though – these will start in energy efficiency, for example air conditioning. India will have to address standards environment. As it changes, there will be opportunities for new suppliers. Storage will be another sector with eventual opportunities.

- Industry and State Department discussed key challenges to meeting above goals:
  1. Finance
  2. IPR
  3. Maintaining power supplies while shifting away from coal in India.

V. Green Climate Fund: Understanding and Capitalizing on Opportunities for U.S. Clean Energy Solution Providers

- Leonardo Martinez-Diaz, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy and Environment*, U.S. Department of the Treasury, and U.S. Representative to the Green Climate Fund Board
  - Deputy Assistant Secretary Martinez-Diaz briefing on the Green Climate Fund:
    - Primary mechanism of the UNFCCC for climate finance, will be based in Korea and will help facilitate the development of RE. 33 countries, \$10.2 billion in grants for the fund – around 60% have been legally committed to the fund. Half earmarked for mitigation projects, other half – resilience and adaptation. Floor – 25% for least developed. Most will come from adaptation section. Low cost of funding (zero) because most are grants or very low interest rates.
    - The Fund will be private sector friendly and will borrow the best global standards. It will help share some of the risk of global RE deployment.
  - Q&A:
    - Question: How can you engage the fund?
      - Seeking accreditation from the fund – private sector can apply to become intermediary of the fund. Blending fund's money with your own. Flexible approach.
      - Working with accredited entity (might be easier).
      - Work through the representatives on the board (work with the Board directly). They are also interested in hearing private-sector views and seeing diversity. This is a priority for the White House.
    - Question: How long until banks abroad are accredited?
      - In the pipeline – investment framework to access proposals being developed
    - What is the process for reviewing proposals?
      - 2 revisions of proposals – Secretary looks first, then independent technical panel
      - Must have 3<sup>rd</sup> party validation process.
    - Question: Is it just country specific?

- No – they have regional approaches too where it makes more sense. However, they must ensure that project is sound.
- What are the vulnerabilities?
  - Need to get the money into the Fund. A significant portion comes from the U.S. Builds on best-practices from organizations globally.
  - They need private sector feedback so they can adjust and improve.
- How can it help U.S. companies?
  - CIFs – actually did help these companies. U.S has an important role in this Challenge, even without special subsidy, etc.

#### VI. Committee Business: Briefings and Updates from Sub-Committee Chairs; Discussion of Sub-Committee Action Plans

- Smart Transportation Sub-Committee:
  - Topics being addressed:
    1. Export Promotion for Renewable Fuels industry: How to make renewable fuels part of smart cities projects; Potential for a White Paper on policies to drive this; Prioritizing RF export markets and responding to these priorities
    2. Solving infrastructure finance challenges in foreign markets: how can U.S. industry and government help?
  - Potential next steps and other ideas for January 2016 Deliverables:
    1. Identify and promote example of renewable fuel sector integration in smart cities.
    2. Provide industry response to Renewable Fuels Top Markets study and work with Commerce to follow-through on export promotion objectives in priority markets.
    3. Work with Commerce and State to capitalize on Exporter App as tool for RF industry.
    4. White paper(s) on facilitative environment for infrastructure finance.
- Smart Communities Sub Committee:
  - Topics being addressed:
    1. Smart City Project and Resource Inventory
    2. Discussions with USTDA, NIST, State Dept on how industry can play a role in existing smart city initiatives/partnerships, for example, in India, also supporting partnerships like Austin + Amsterdam.
    3. Finance issues: opportunity to work with Green Climate Fund to facilitate specialized finance for smart cities projects.
  - Potential next steps and other ideas for January 2016 Deliverables:
    1. Provide resources and input to help US Government define smart cities

2. Provide recommendations to US government on how smart cities trade promotion activities, like Trade Missions, can better result in export success.
  3. Identify and execute on more direct ways to play a role in NIST Global Cities Challenge
  4. Help expand USG smart cities initiatives to new regions, like Latin America.
- Resiliency and Infrastructure Sub-Committee + Global Energy Delivery Sub-Committee:
    - Topics being Addressed:
      1. Direct role for industry in Reverse Trade Missions or “roadshows” that are a part of Power Africa or similar initiatives.
      2. Opportunities to provide expertise and deliverables to support Power Africa. For example, industry involvement in “readiness guides” like the one on PPAs.
      3. Opportunities for industry to play more of a coordinating role for government. For example: getting DOE more involved in Power Africa and Global Cities Challenge.
      4. Challenge of “marketing” U.S. technologies, their quality and higher standards.
    - Potential next steps and other ideas for January 2016 Deliverables:
      1. Host Power Africa delegation(s) at industry cluster sites. Research Triangle, North Carolina was discussed.
      2. Develop Power Africa Readiness Guide on *Renewable Energy Project Procurement, Integrated Resource Planning*, or other topics.
      3. Play more active role in supporting USG efforts to identify projects for potential US involvement.
      4. Activities or output to achieve goal of driving best practices and transparent methods for transmission planning and build-out.

VII. Public Comment Period: there were no public comments and the meeting was subsequently adjourned at approximately 4pm.